

NEWS RELEASE



Governor Bob Taft

TAFT REQUESTS FEDERAL AID FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE COSTS

State and local governments and private non-profit organizations may be eligible for reimbursement

COLUMBUS (September 9, 2005) – Governor Bob Taft today requested that the federal government help offset costs incurred by the State of Ohio, local governments and non-profit organizations that are providing shelter, mass care, **emergency protective measures and associated costs** as a result of response and recovery efforts to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

“I have determined that the situation is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments,” stated Taft in a letter to President George W. Bush. “I am requesting that the federal share for Public Assistance – Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) be 100 percent of the eligible costs incurred in the continuation of our efforts during this extraordinary event.”

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of emergency assistance needed to respond to this event cannot be determined at this time. It is anticipated that law enforcement, emergency medical services, public health services, mental health services, and other social services will be necessary in the care of the displaced storm victims.

Ohio’s continuing role in the response effort includes:

- The State of Ohio, American Red Cross and other like organizations have made assistance available to thousands of displaced victims through various evacuee support systems.
- The State of Ohio has identified facilities, public housing, hotel rooms and other accommodations capable of support the care of more than 1,000 additional evacuees.
- The Ohio Emergency Management Agency is coordinating the state’s support of the evacuation **through the organization of resources** of the state and local government agencies and private non-profit organizations through the State Emergency Operations Center.

Governor Bob Taft has designated Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request.

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